

VOICE OF FREEDOM.

VOL. VI.

"THE INVIOABILITY OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS IS THE ONLY SECURITY OF PUBLIC LIBERTY."

NO. 2.

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POETRY.

FOR THE VOICE OF FREEDOM.

A Liberty Song.

Nail the flag to the mast!
There high let it wave,
Though the battle's fierce blast
Howl wild—and the grave
awn darkly and deeply and fearful beneath,
shall guide to the haven of freedom or death.

No truce with the foe,—
Let them treat with the dead,
Whose blood drops of woe
Call for wrath on their head;
Those bodies by thousands to dust they have trod,
Whose spirits in darkness they've ushered to God.

Fling the white banner out!
Till the hill-top and glen
Are alive with the shout,
And the rally of men;
Hear the shrill bugle-blast like the peal from the cloud.
When the dark mountain forests by tempests are

They would send the wild wall
O'er the far Texan plain,
Though the thick battle-hail
Strew the land with the slain,—
In Rome, to the felon, when blood he had shed,
They would lash to the living the corpse of the dead.

Fling your white banner out!
No blood stain is there,
The crushed millions to flout
As they wait in despair;
Have the star-spangled banner no longer above,
All its stripes are washed out by the tear-drops of love.

By the graves on your hills
Where your fathers repose,
By the Spring-swollen rills
On your mountains of snows,
By your cold skies and winds that have nourished
like home for your country, your God, and the slave!

Brandon, June 1844.

From the Signal of Liberty.

Review of the Liberty Party.

MAINE.

The population of this State in 1840, was about half a million. The number of votes cast was 93,007, of which the whigs polled 46,613, the democrats, 46,394, the liberty party, 194, or two in a hundred of the whole. In 1843, the liberty vote was 6,351, being about one in fifteen of the whole number of votes. In 1841, it was 1,663—in 1842, 2,938.—Should the liberty vote double annually in this State, the party will have a majority of all the votes in three or four years.

The diffusion of the antislavery leaven through the community generally, is an object worthy of the notice of liberty men. In Maine, 1840, liberty votes were given in every county but two. Now we believe every county is well organized, unless there be an exception in the 'Aroostook county.' In two or three of the Congressional districts, the liberty vote exceeded 1,100.

A majority of all the votes cast is required to elect in this State. Hence, obstinate trials have taken place in very many towns and districts, the people often going to the polls five or six times. It has been proposed in the legislature to elect by a plurality, but it is seen that this will only help the liberty party into power the quicker. There are two liberty representatives in the State legislature.

The democratic party have a decided preponderance in the State, the candidate for governor having been elected by some ten thousand majority. This renders it pretty certain that they will carry the State at the ensuing Presidential election, as there will be no election by the people, and then it will be decided by the legislature.

We have no means of forming an accurate estimate of the probable liberty vote, but the statistics we have mentioned demonstrate that the liberty party is a 'fixed fact'—that it has permanent standing with the other parties, and that its present attitude is forward and not retrograde. We set down Maine as certain for liberty in 1848.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

In 1840, this State had a population of 284,481, being not very far in advance of Michigan. The whole vote of the State was 59,030, of which the democratic ticket received 32,761, and the whig, 26,158, liberty, 111, or about two in a thousand of the whole. In 1841, it was 2,358—in 1842, 3,110—in 1843, 3,564, in 1844, for governor, 5,829—being nearly a tenth part of the whole. This is the largest liberty vote in proportion to the population yet given in any State. At the recent election, four tickets were run. The whig ticket received a little less than 15,000 votes, the other two democratic tickets having a united majority of some eight or ten thousand. This State is hopelessly committed against the whigs and they occupy the position of a settled and uniform minority. About two thirds of the liberty vote are said to be from the whigs. The liberty party has now fourteen members in the legislature. Should the vote double

annually, the liberty party will carry the State in three years more.

We anticipate a large increase of the liberty vote in this State, not only on account of the character of the people, but because of the state of political parties.—The democrats are divided, and the whigs being in a hopeless minority, cannot exert the influence they otherwise would in hindering persons from supporting the liberty ticket, when it is a conceded fact, that they too, in State elections intend to vote for men who cannot be elected.

VERMONT.

Population in 1840, 291,848, about the same as New Hampshire. The vote for General Harrison was 32,440—for Van Buren, 18,016—total, 50,776. The vote for Birney was 319. In 1841, the liberty vote was 2,791—in 1842, 2,091—in 1843, 3,765. This is the only State or Territory in the Union where the liberty vote has fallen off, after the party was fairly organized. This falling away was nobly redeemed at the last election, and the course of liberty principles will henceforth be steadily onward. But this deficiency of 700 votes, for one election, was received by the whig party with a shout of gratification and joy, that the liberty party was evidently dying away, after the example of its antislavery predecessor, and would soon be of no more use than

"To point a moral, or adorn a tale."

But these anticipations have given place in their minds to the sad but undeniable conviction that the liberty party is a stern reality. In 1840, the liberty vote was one in 156 of the whole,—in 1843, it was one in 14. There are some seven or eight liberty men in the legislature.

The electoral vote of this State will be given to Mr. Clay, without doubt. But the Liberty State Ticket is excellent, and we prophesy it will be well supported. An increase for three years proportionate to that of the last three, will give the liberty party a large ascendancy in Vermont.

Address of O'Connell.

The following Address was issued by O'Connell to the people of Ireland immediately after the sentence to imprisonment was pronounced. Who can doubt in this contest of crowned heads against the trampled but struggling populace of Ireland, which will finally triumph? Truth and right are immortal,—they can bleed but cannot die. Peaceably but gloriously does O'Connell work out the redemption of his country.

PEACE AND QUIET.

PEOPLE OF IRELAND—FELLOW COUNTRYMEN—BELOVED FELLOW COUNTRYMEN.—The sentence is passed. But there is another appeal from that sentence. The appeal lies to the House of Lords. I solemnly pledge myself to bring an appeal against that sentence, and I assure you there is every prospect that it will be received. Peace, then, and quiet. Let there not be one particle of riot, tumult, or violence. This is the crisis in which it will be shown whether the people of Ireland will obey me or not. Any person who violates the law, or is guilty of any violence, insult, or injury to person or property, violates my command, and shows himself an enemy to me, and a bitter enemy to Ireland.

The people of Ireland—the sober, steady, honest, religious people of Ireland—have hitherto obeyed my commands and kept quiet. Let every man stay at home. Let the women and children stay at home. Do not crowd the streets, and in particular let no man approach the precincts of the Four Courts.

Now, people of Dublin, and people of Ireland generally, I shall know, and the world will know, whether you love and respect me or not. Show your love and regard for me by your obedience to the law,—your peaceable conduct, and the total avoidance of any riot or violence.

PEACE, ORDER, QUIET, TRANQUILITY. Preserve the peace, and the Repeal cause will necessarily be triumphant.—Peace and quiet I ask for in my name, and as you regard me. Peace and quiet I ask for in the name of Ireland, and as you love your native land. Peace—quiet—order, I call for under the solemn sanction of religion. I conjure you to observe quiet, and I ask it in the adorable name of the everliving God. Gratify me and your friends by your being quiet and peaceable.

The enemies of Ireland would be delighted at your violating the peace, or being guilty of any disorder.

Disappoint them—gratify and delight by peace, order and quiet.

Your faithful friend,

DANIEL O'CONNELL.

Corn Exchange Rooms, May 20, 1844.

In Illinois, free negroes are presumed to be slaves, and without a certificate of freedom, the law directs them to be sent to jail; to be advertised for six months, and if no owner appears, they are to be hired out to pay their jail fees. If a black man is found ten miles from his master's house without a PASS, being a servant, it is lawful for any one to seize such persons, and carry him before a Justice, to be PUNISHED with stripes not exceeding thirty-five. If three servants of color assemble for dancing or revelry, it is made the duty of the State officers, to commit such persons, to jail, to be whipped with thirty-nine stripes on his or her bare back.—Chicago Journal.

THOMAS H. BENTON.

We cannot repress the admiration we feel for the recent bearing of Col. Benton. The Carolina Disunionists have undermined and beaten him with their new Texas conspiracy—they have worsted him in the Presidential contest and probably cut him off from the succession—they have obtained the lead of the party which they have only belonged to some six or seven years, while he has been its Ajax in the Senate since 1827—they have probably destroyed him they cannot conquer nor cower him. He looks them as sternly in the eye as ever, and is prepared to do battle with them at any notice, no matter at what odds. His rejoinder to McDuffie on Saturday night is represented by those who heard it as most withering. He laid bare the secret springs of private speculation and political treachery which have given life to the cry of immediate annexation; he showed that the men who fomented this plot were impelled by the most sordid motives, and bent on gratifying their ambition even at the cost of destroying the Union. He told them on closing that they need not exult too confidently in their ill got victory, for he should meet them at Philippi—that he should oppose their intrigues with voice and pen, and if need be with sword in hand, and die defending the Union.

A murmur of applause ran through the galleries which could not be restrained. Gen. Clinch of Ga. who happened to be in the Senate, could not resist the impulse to go up to the dauntless Senator, and grasping his hand, and telling him that he should stand proudly by his side in defence of the Union.

Mr. Benton turned to John Quincy Adams, who had taken a seat behind him to listen to this debate, and taking his hand said, "Mr Adams, you are passing off the stage, and I am passing away also; but while we live we will stand by the Union!"

The Nation responds to this sentiment. There is a good deal of bluster, at Washington, and at St. Louis, about turning Mr. B. out of the party! but the Disunionists will consult the better part of valor. They would cut an interesting figure in the Senate, after reading out of the party THOMAS H. BENTON and SILAS WRIGHT for resisting their Texas iniquity.—N. Y. Tribune.

WAR, WAR, WAR. There is a certain set of reckless politicians, who think it is, as it may be, for aught we know, popular to raise the war cry; and they are not willing to advocate the election of any officer, from president to fence-viewer, unless he is a war candidate. We perceive with regret that several aspirants for the presidency, speak of a war as tho' it would be a very good jest. We think men were made for a higher and better purpose than cutting each other's throats. We once saw the bones, blood, brains, and flesh of eight or ten men mashed together by an explosion, and the spectacle was not pleasing in the least. We should like it no better to see the mangled corpses of eight or ten hundred human beings lying upon a battle-field. Of course it is necessary for a nation to defend its rights, but we are not ready to advocate a war on a mere point of punctilio, or to help along the ambitious aims of some individual, or for the purpose of acquiring territory which we do not need.—Wabash Standard.

In 1840, at this time, the Harrison influence upon abolitionists was such, that discontinuances of the Abolitionist were coming in at the rate, sometimes, of fifty to a hundred a day. In some places, some zealous Whig would go round to the subscribers and get the whole list to stop.—The list fell off, in a short time, from 2800 to 1800, on account of our support of the Liberty party. Now we circulate 6300 weekly, and the new subscribers come in faster than the old ones fell off. Such is the change in four years. Who now regrets his enlistment in the forlorn hope of that day?—Emancipator.

Texas.—The Times takes ground very decidedly, since the nomination of Polk, for the annexation of Texas. We suppose the Democratic papers will generally follow suit—but not all of them. The N. Y. Evening Post opposes the insane project with great zeal—but with greater inconsistency, supports the Baltimore Convention. Alas! that such a spirit as Bryant's should bow so servilely to the slavery of Party! There are not a few Democrats in New England who are hostile to annexation. Can they longer support a party that has virtually pledged itself to the support of this measure, so earnestly desired by the Slave Power for strengthening the dominion of slavery? Will they thus peril the dearest interests of the north in obedience to party dictation? Have they utterly surrendered their manhood, till they are content to be mere puppets, to dance as others may pull the wires! If not, now is the time for them to assert their freedom. Let them clear their skirts of this Texas conspiracy and of all allegiance to the Slave Power at the same time, and when they next go to the ballot-box, vote, not for Polk and Texas, not for Clay and Slavery, but for BIRNEY and LIBERTY!

Always have some worthy end in view, in whatever you undertake; remembering that to fail with good intentions, is more honorable than success in any evil cause.

American Notes.

BY CHARLES DICKENS.

This work was published in 1842 and I think some parts were copied into the Voice of Freedom, then published at Montpelier. But as chapter 17 contains such a keen rebuke on slaveholding, and since many are now taking the Voice who do not yet understand all that has been published on the subject; and since too a friend has specially requested the insertion of this chapter, I have thought best to give it to our readers in this and the next No. of our paper. Those who have not seen this will find it worth reading; and those who saw it in 1842 will lose nothing by re-perusing it.

J. H.

SLAVERY.

The upholders of slavery in America, of the atrocities of which system, I shall not write one word for which I have not ample proof and warrant—may be divided into three great classes.

The first, are those more moderate and rational owners of human cattle, who have come into the possession of them as so many coins in their trading capital, but who admit the frightful nature of the institution in the abstract, and perceive the dangers to society with which it is fraught, dangers which, however distant they may be, or howsoever tardy in their coming on, are as certain to fall upon its guilty head, as is the Day of Judgment.

The second, consists of all those owners, breeders, users, buyers, and sellers of slaves, who will, until the bloody chapter has a bloody end, own, breed, use, buy, and sell them at all hazards; who doggedly deny the horrors of the system, in the teeth of such a mass of evidence as never was brought to bear on any other subject, and to which the experience of every day contributes its immense amount; who would at this or any other moment, gladly involve America in a war, civil or foreign, provided that it had, for its sole end and object the assertion of their right to perpetuate slavery, and to whip, and work, and torture slaves, unquestioned by any human authority, and unassailed by any human power; who, when they speak of Freedom, mean the Freedom to oppress their kind, and to be savage, merciless, and cruel; and of whom every man on his own ground, in republican America, is a more exacting, and a sterner and less responsible despot, than the Caliph Harounal Raschid in his angry robe of scarlet.

The third, and not the least numerous or influential, is composed of all that delicate gentility which cannot bear a superior, and cannot brook an equal; of that class whose Republicanism means, 'I will not tolerate a man above me; and of those below, none must approach too near;—whose pride, in a land where voluntary servitude is shunned as a disgrace, must be ministered to by slaves; and whose inalienable rights can only have their growth in negro wrongs.

It has been sometimes urged that, in the unavailing efforts which have been made to advance the cause of Human Freedom in the republic of America (strange cause for history to treat of!)—sufficient regard has not been had to the existence of the first class of persons; and it has been contended that they are hardly used, in being confounded with the second. This is, no doubt, the case; no noble instances of pecuniary and personal sacrifice have already had their growth among them; and it is much to be regretted that the gulf between them and the advocates of emancipation should have been widened and deepened by any means; the rather, as there are, beyond dispute, among the slave-owners, many kind masters who are tender in the exercise of their unnatural power. Still it is to be feared that this injustice is inseparable from the state of things with which humanity and truth are called upon to deal. Slavery is not a whit the more endurable because some hearts are to be found which can partially resist its hardening influences; nor can the indignant tide of honest wrath stand still, because in its onward course it overwhelms a few who are comparatively innocent, among a host of guilty.

The ground most commonly taken by these better men among the advocates of slavery, is this: 'It is a bad system; and for myself I would willingly get rid of it, if I could; most willingly. But it is not so bad, as you in England take it to be. You are deceived by the representations of the emancipationists. The greater part of my slaves are much attached to me.—You will say that I do not allow them to be severely treated; but I will put it to you whether you believe that it can be a general practice to treat them inhumanly, when it would impair their value, and would be obviously against the interests of their masters.'

Is it the interest of any man to steal, to game, to waste his health and mental faculties by drunkenness, to lie, forswear himself, indulge hatred, seek desperate revenge, or do murder? No. All these are roads to ruin. And why, then, do men tread them? Because such inclinations are among the vicious qualities of mankind. Blot out, ye friends of slavery, from the catalogue of human passions, brutal lust, cruelty, and the abuse of irresponsible power (of all earthly temptations the most difficult to be resisted,) and when ye have done so, and not before, we will inquire whether it be the interest of a master to lash and maim the slaves, over whose lives and limbs he has an absolute control.

But again: this class, together with that last one I have named, the miserable aristocracy spawned of a false republic, lift up their voices and exclaim, 'Public opinion is all sufficient to prevent such cruelty as you denounce.' Public opinion! Why, public opinion in the slave States is slavery, is it not? Public opinion in the slave States has delivered the slaves over to the gentle mercies of their masters. Public opinion has made the laws, and denied them legislative protection. Public opinion has knotted the lash, heated the branding-iron, loaded the rifle, and shielded the murderer. Public opinion threatens the abolitionist with death, if he venture to the South; and drags him with a rope about his middle, in a broad unblushing noon, through the first city in the East. Public opinion has, within a few years, burned a slave alive at a slow fire in the city of St. Louis; and public opinion has to this day maintained upon the bench that estimable judge who charged the jury, impanelled there to try his murderers, that their most horrid deed was an act of public opinion, and being so, must not be punished by the laws the public sentiment had made. Public opinion hailed this doctrine with a howl of wild applause, and set the prisoners free, to walk the city, men of mark, and influence, and station, as they had been before.

Public opinion! what class of men have an immense preponderance over the rest of the community, in their power of representing public opinion in the legislature? The slave owners. They send from their twelve States, one hundred members, while the fourteen free States, with a free population nearly double, return but a hundred and forty-two. Before whom do the presidential candidates bow down the most humbly, on whom do they fawn the most fondly, and for whose tastes do they cater the most assiduously in their servile protestations? The slave owners always.

Public opinion! hear the public opinion of the free South, as expressed by its own members in the House of Representatives at Washington. 'I have a great respect for the chair,' quoth North Carolina, 'I have a great respect for the chair as an officer of the house, and a great respect for him personally; nothing but that respect prevents me from rushing to the table and tearing that petition which has just been presented for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, to pieces.' 'I warn the abolitionists,' says South Carolina, 'ignorant, infuriated barbarians as they are, that if chance shall throw any of them into our hands, he may expect a felon's death.' 'Let an abolitionist come within the borders of South Carolina,' cries a third, mild Carolina's colleague, 'and if we can catch him we will try him, and notwithstanding the interference of all the governments on earth, including the federal government, we will hang him.'

Public opinion has made this law; it has declared that in Washington, in that city which takes its name from the father of American liberty, any justice of the peace may bind with fetters any negro passing down the street and thrust him into jail; no offence on the black man's part is necessary. The justice says, 'I choose to think this man a runaway;—and locks him up. Public opinion empowers the man of law when this is done to advertise the negro in the newspapers, warning his owner to come and claim him, or he will be sold to pay the jail fees. But supposing he is a free black, and has no owner, it may naturally be presumed that he is set at liberty. No; he is sold to recompense his jailer. This has been done again, and again, and again. He has no means of proving his freedom;—has no adviser, messenger, or assistance of any sort or kind; no investigation into his case is made, or inquiry instituted.—He, a free man, who may have served for years, and bought his liberty, is thrown into jail on no process, for no crime, and on no pretence of crime, and is sold to pay the jail fees. This seems incredible, even of America, but it is the law.

Public opinion is deterred in such cases as the following, which is headed in the newspapers

Interesting Law Case.

An interesting case is now on trial in the Supreme Court, arising out of the following facts: a gentleman residing in Maryland had allowed an aged pair of his slaves substantial though not legal freedom for several years. While thus living a daughter was born to them, who grew up in the same liberty until she married a free negro, and went with him to reside in Pennsylvania. They had several children, and lived unmolested until the original owner died, when his heir attempted to regain them; but the magistrate before whom they were brought, decided that he had no jurisdiction in the case. The owner seized the woman and children in the night, and carried them to Maryland.

'Cash for negroes,' 'cash for negroes,' 'cash for negroes,' is the heading of advertisements in great capitals down the long columns of the crowded journals.—Woodcuts of a runaway negro with manacled hands, crouching beneath a bluff pursuer in top boots, who, having caught him, grasps him by the throat, agreeably diversify the pleasant text. The leading article protests against 'that abominable and hellish doctrine of abolition, which is repugnant alike to every law of God and Nature.' The delicate mamma, who

smiles her acquiescence in this sprightly writing as she reads the paper in her cool piazza, quiets her youngest child who clings about her skirts, by promising the boy 'a whip to beat the little niggers with.' But the negroes, little and big, are protected by public opinion.

Let us try this public opinion by another test, which is important in three points of view: first, as showing how desperately timid of the public opinion slave owners are, in their delicate descriptions of fugitive slaves in widely-circulated newspapers; secondly, as showing how perfectly contented the slaves are, and how very seldom they runaway; thirdly, as exhibiting their entire freedom from fear, or blemish, or any mark of cruel infliction, as their pictures are drawn, not by lying abolitionists, but by their own truthful masters.

The following are a few specimens of the advertisements in the public papers. It is only four years since the oldest among them appeared, and others of the same nature continue to be published every day in shoals.

'Run away negro Caroline. Had on a collar with one prong turned down.'

'Run away, a black woman, Betsey.—Had an iron bar on her right leg.'

'Run away, the negro Manuel, much marked with irons.'

'Run away, the negress Fanny. Had on an iron band about her neck.'

'Run away, a negro boy about twelve years old. Had round his neck a chain dog-collar with 'De Lampert' engraved on it.'

'Run away, the negro Hown. Has a ring of iron on his left foot. Also Grise, his wife, having a ring and chain on the left leg.'

'Run away, a negro boy, named James. Said boy was ironed when he left me.'

'Committed to jail, a man who calls his name John. He has a clog of iron on his right foot which will weigh four or five pounds.'

'Detained at the police jail, the negro weenich Myra. Has several marks of lashing, and has irons on her feet.'

'Run away, a negro woman and two children; a few days before she went off I burned her with a hot iron on the left side of her face. I tried to make the letter M.'

'Run away, a negro man named Henry; his left eye out, some scars from a dirk on and under his left arm, and much scarred with the whip.'

'One hundred dollars reward, for a negro fellow, Pompey, 40 years old. He is branded on the left jaw.'

'Committed to jail, a negro man. Has no toes on the left foot.'

'Run away, a negro woman named Rachel. Has lost all her toes except the large one.'

'Run away, Sam. He was shot a short time since through the hand, and has several shots in his left arm and side.'

'Run away, my negro man Dennis.—Said negro has been shot in the left arm between the shoulders and elbow, which has paralyzed the left hand.'

'Run away, my negro man named Simon. He has been shot badly in his back and right arm.'

'Run away, a negro named Arthur.—Has a considerable scar across his breast and each arm, made by a knife; loves to talk much of the goodness of God.'

'Twenty-five dollars reward for my man Isaac. He has a scar on his forehead, caused by a blow; and one on his back, made by a shot from a pistol.'

'Run away, negro girl called Mary.—Has a small scar over her eye, a good many teeth missing, the letter A is branded on her cheek and forehead.'

'Run away, negro Ben. Has a scar on his right hand; his thumb and forefinger being injured by being shot last fall. A part of the bone came out. He has also one or two large scars on his back and hips.'

'Detained at the jail, a mulatto, named Tom. Has a scar on the right cheek, and appears to have been burned with powder on the face.'

'Run away, a negro man named Ned. Three of his fingers are drawn into the palm of his hand by a cut. Has a scar on the back of his neck, nearly half round, done by a knife.'

'Was committed to jail, a negro man. Says his name is Josiah. His back very much scarred by the whip; and branded on the thigh and hips in three or four places thus (J M.) The rim of his right ear has been bit or cut off.'

'Fifty dollars reward, for my fellow Edward. He has a scar on the corner of his mouth, two cuts on and under his arm.'

'Run away, negro boy Ellic. Has a scar on one of his arms from the bite of a dog.'

'Run away, from the plantation of James Surgette, the following negroes: Randal, has one ear cropped; Bob, has lost one eye; Kentucky Tom, has one jaw broken.'

'Run away, Anthony. One of his ears cut off, and his left hand cut with an axe.'

'Fifty dollars reward for the negro Jim Blake. Has a piece cut out of each ear, and the middle finger of the left hand cut off to the second joint.'

'Run away, a negro woman named Maria. Has a scar on one side of her cheek, by a cut. Some scars on her back.'

'Run away, the mulatto weenich Mary. Has a cut on the left arm, a scar on the left shoulder, and two upper teeth missing.'